

## Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-10 EB-07 COME-00 AID-05 TRSE-00

OMB-01 STR-04 NSA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

/097 W

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R 241444Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7596

UNCLAS OTTAWA 3607

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, CA, CU

SUBJECT: CUBA'S VICE PRIME MINISTER LEADS TRADE AND ECONOMIC  
DELEGATION TO CANADA

REF: OTTAWA 1280, APRIL 9, 1975

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SEPTEMBER 23 DEPARTMENT OF  
INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE PRESS RELEASE ON SUBJECT  
VISIT.

BEGIN TEXT.

"A TRADE AND ECONOMIC DELEGATION LED BY DR. CARLOS  
RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ, CUBA'S VICE PRIME MINISTER FOR  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ARRIVES IN OTTAWA TODAY (SEPT. 23)  
FOR THREE DAYS OF TALKS WITH CANADIAN MINISTERS  
AND OFFICIALS.

"THE VISIT FOLLOWS AN INVITATION BY INDUSTRY, TRADE  
AND COMMERCE MINISTER ALASAIR GILLESPIE DURING HIS  
SUCCESSFUL TRADE MISSION TO CUBA LAST MARCH.

"THE FIRST MEETING OF THE CUBA/CANADA JOINT COMMITTEE  
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ON ECONOMIC AND TRADE RELATIONS WILL BE HELD

DURING THE VISIT. THIS COMMITTEE WAS PROPOSED  
IN MARCH AS A FORUM FOR PERIODIC REVIEW OF  
ECONOMIC AND TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO  
COUNTRIES.

"WHILE IN OTTAWA DR. RODRIGUEZ IS EXPECTED TO  
MEET WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, THE SECRETARY OF  
STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND OTHER MEMBERS  
OF THE CANADIAN CABINET.

"CUBA IS CANADA'S LARGEST SINGLE MARKET IN THE  
CARIBBEAN AREA AND THIS YEAR HAS BECOME  
CANADA'S THIRD LARGEST MARKET IN THE ENTIRE  
WESTERN HEMISPHERE, AFTER THE U.S.A. AND  
VENEZUELA. IN 1974 CANADA WAS CUBA'S THIRD  
MOST IMPORTANT SUPPLIER, WITH OUR EXPORTS EXCEEDED  
ONLY BY THOSE OF THE U.S.S.R. AND JAPAN.

"CANADA'S EXPORTS TO CUBA HAVE EXPANDED RAPIDLY  
IN RECENT YEARS, INCREASING FROM \$59 MILLION  
IN 1972 TO \$83 MILLION IN 1973, FOLLOWED BY A FURTHER  
INCREASE TO \$145 MILLION IN 1974.

"IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR CANADA'S  
EXPORTS TO CUBA HAVE INCREASED BY 114 PERCENT,  
FROM \$51 TO \$109 MILLION. CUBA'S EXPORTS TO  
CANADA HAVE ALSO SHOWN A RAPID INCREASE FROM  
\$11 MILLION IN 1972 TO \$76 MILLION IN 1974.  
IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR CUBAN  
EXPORTS TO CANADA WERE UP BY 41 PERCENT, AN  
INCREASE FROM \$24 MILLION IN THE FIRST SIX  
MONTHS OF LAST YEAR TO \$34 MILLION IN THE  
SAME PERIOD THIS YEAR."

END TEXT

2. COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR WILL FOLLOW  
NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF VISIT AND WILL REPORT  
ANYTHING OF SIGNIFICANCE. ALSO PLANS TO  
DISCUSS VISIT AND RESULTS ACHIEVED WITH  
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INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE OFFICER CONCERNED  
WITH CANADA/CUBA TRADE.  
JOHNSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MINISTERIAL VISITS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 SEP 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 75 OTTAWA 1280  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** izenbei0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 JUN 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <21 JAN 2004 by izenbei0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CUBA'S VICE PRIME MINISTER LEADS TRADE AND ECONOMIC DELEGATION TO CANADA  
**TAGS:** ETRD, CA, CU, (RODRIGUEZ RODRIGUEZ, CARLOS RAFAEL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006